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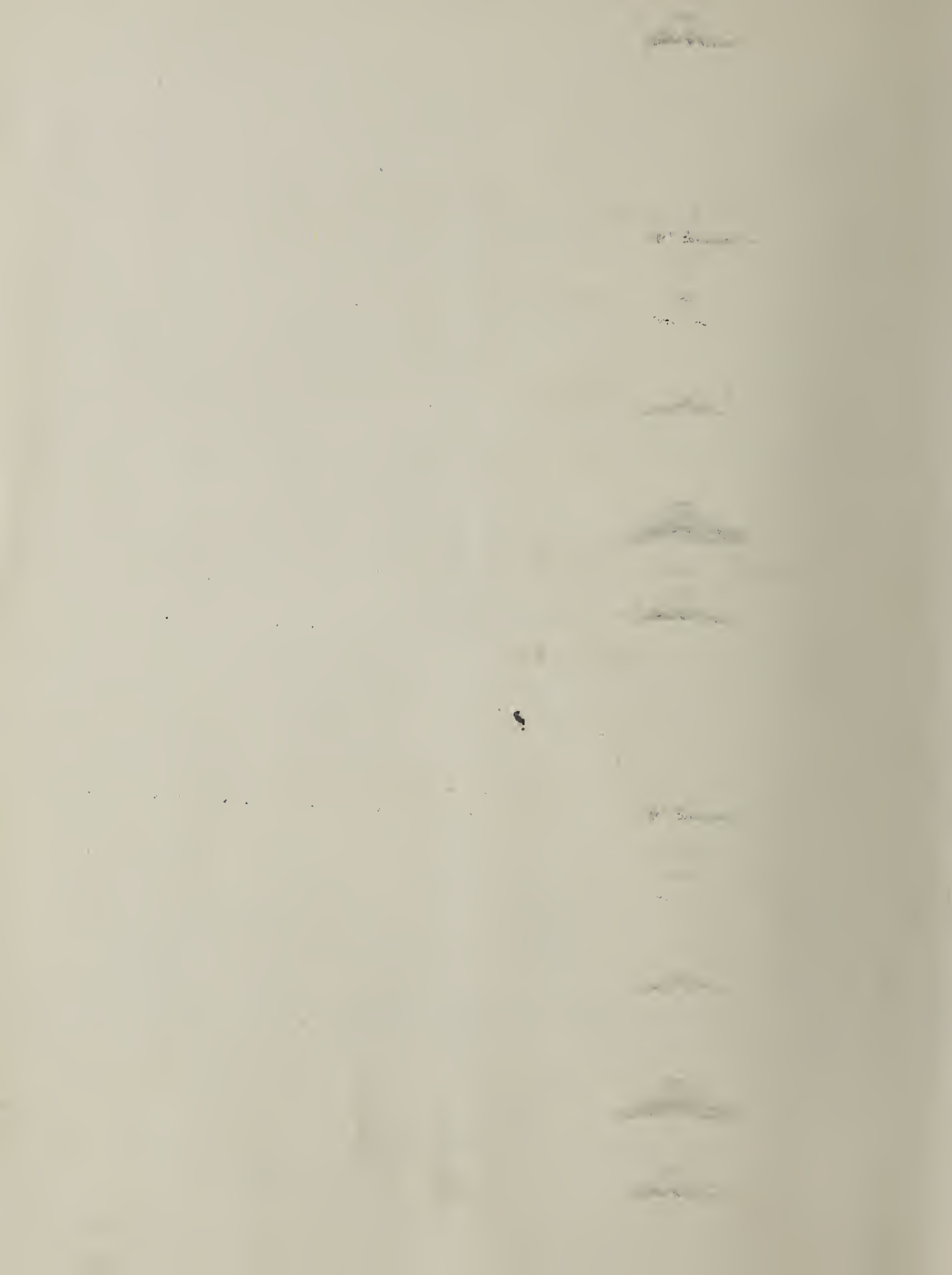
ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

J. Leslie R. Philip. M.B. Ch. B.

for the year.

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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.
1941-1942.

His Worship The Mayor. (Alderman S.G. Tydeman J.P.).

Chairman. Alderman A.C.C. Cowell.

Deputy Chairman. Councillor. E.C. Dines.

Alderman. A.L. Clarke.

Councillor. C.W. Betts.

" A. Bunting.

" G.W. Free.

" A. Gepp.

" J.W. Gozzett.

" J.J. Oliver.

OFFICERS.

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

J. Leslie R. Philip. M.B. Ch. B.

Sanitary Inspector.

E. McC. Taylor. Cert. S.I.B. M.S.I.A.

(Qualified Inspector of Meat and Other Foods).

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BOROUGH OF MALDON.

To the Mayor, Aldermen, Councillors and Burgesses of the Borough of Maldon.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Interim Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Borough for the year 1941. This report is only an Interim Report as desired by the Ministry of Health.

Vital Statistics. The Birth and Death Rates per 1,000 of the population are given below:-

<u>Birth Rate.</u>	<u>1941.</u>	<u>1940.</u>	<u>1939.</u>
	13.1.	10.08.	14.2.
Death Rate.	15.3.	14.6.	11.86.

Owing to the extensive movement of population due to war conditions it was not possible for the Registrar General to give a "comparability factor", and this means that the figure of 15.3. given as the Death Rate is higher than would normally be the case. The figures are, however, within normal limits.

Infectious Diseases.

	<u>1941.</u>	<u>1940.</u>	<u>1939.</u>
Notifications.	450.	18.	45.
Deaths from	3.	2.	3.

The large increase in notifications of Infectious Diseases in 1941 is accounted for by the prevalence of Measles and Whooping Cough, which totalled 400 of the 450 notifications. These two diseases were not notifiable before the war, but the step was amply justified in view of the complications which so frequently accompany these diseases. Particularly in connection with Measles, parents were apt to assume that, whereas, Scarlet Fever was notifiable and Measles was not, the former was the more serious condition. Vital statistics prove the reverse. The Maldon Joint Hospital Board has continued to meet the needs of the Borough with efficiency, and in no case has any infection, whatever its nature been refused admission. Your Council will appreciate that war-time circumstances may necessitate the admission of cases which normally would be nursed at home. Although previously the Hospital catered for certain infections, this rule is now completely waived, the only consideration now being the safety of the local population, and as far as accommodation will permit the Hospital has also had calls made upon it by the local Military Authorities, and these have been freely met.

Since December, 1941, Dr. M.V. Webb, C.B.E. has been associated with me in the direction of the Hospital

Diphtheria Immunisation. I have been glad to note the interest of the Council in this important matter, and to report from time to time the response of the Parents to the appeals which have been made in this respect. Maldon can bear favourable comparison with most areas in Essex. This work will go on with similar vigour.

I have to acknowledge the help given to me by the County Medical Officer of Health in placing the School Clinic and School Nurses at our disposal for this purpose.

My Sanitary Inspector has rendered valuable assistance at the Sessions.

Scabies. This skin disease, always more prevalent in war-time, has caused no great anxiety locally, and adequate arrangements have been made to deal with any serious outbreak.

Civil Defence. This continues to occupy a good deal of my time. I feel sure the Council would desire to be associated with me in a tribute I desire to pay to those men and women of this Borough who have given such devoted service to our Town, and indeed to the whole Eastern Area. Perhaps only one who is in close touch with this work can realise the amount of time given up voluntarily by our First Aid Party Leaders in lecturing to Point personnel in the villages which surround the Borough.

I desire also to acknowledge the very great assistance rendered to me and to the Borough by Mr M.W. Williams, the Casualty Services Staff Officer in maintaining the efficiency of the Services at their present pitch. Mr Williams' services are, of course, voluntary.

Air Raid Shelters. I inspect these shelters periodically and during alerts. I find that they are little used. Heating and Eisan closets have now been installed.

In existing conditions, I consider the employment of four whole time shelter wardens is a waste of labour and public money. This is especially true in Summer when little more than a periodic sweep out is necessary.

Rest Centres, Mortuaries, and Food Decontamination.

I have been concerned from time to time in these matters in consultation with your Town Clerk and Sanitary Inspector. The Mortuary is now established at the Friary- a locality which embraces many of the defects of its predecessor. I, of course, fully recognise the difficulty of impossibility of finding more suitable premises.

Rest Centres are now designated and equipped, but I am not altogether satisfied with the staffing arrangements. Civil Defence has now a priority claim upon these in the case of demolition of our First Aid Posts, in which case the Rest Centres would be used for the wounded. If, as is possible, the Aid Post personnel were involved in such a catastrophe, I fear that the Rest Centre personnel of the W.V.S. are little fitted to take their place.

Your Sanitary Inspector has attended Conferences called by the Ministry of Food on Food Decontamination. Food Decontamination Squads are now enrolled and have a certain amount of equipment. They have received training at the hands of the Sanitary Inspector. They are, of course, busy people, and "refresher" instruction is difficult.

Water supply. As the Council is aware the supply from Messrs E.H. Bentall & Co. has now ceased.

An extensive survey of reserve water supply for any emergency has been carried out by the Borough Engineer.

Housing. Shortage of houses remains acute, and, of course, while the war lasts there is no prospect of improvement. Some degree of overcrowding and ill-housing is therefore inevitable.

The Marine Lake. I have had to report to the County Medical Officer of Health that this water does not conform to the standard of purity requisite for bathing purposes for the school children. The lake is, of course, freely used by the same children after school hours!

British Restaurant. I have much pleasure in commenting favourably on the sanitary condition of these premises.

I desire to thank the Council for the help given to me during the year under consideration, and to acknowledge with gratitude the assistance freely given to me by the Officers of your Council.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. Leslie R. Philip.

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT

of the

ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the
year
1941.

SECTION. A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Land. (Acres) as extended at April 1934.	5941
Tidal waters.	1
Tidal waters.	21
Foreshore.	566
Total.	6645
Population. (Census 1931 Original Borough)	6559
" (R.G. estimate 1941. extended Borough.	6767
Number of Inhabitated houses.	2728
Number of families or separate occupiers.	2827
Rateable Value. un-reduced.	
" reduced.	
Sum represented by a Penny Rate.	£194

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

	Total.	Males.	Females.	
BIRTHS				Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population.
Legitimate	111.	59.	52.	
Illegitimate	4.	-	4.	
Total	115.	59.	56.	13.1.
				Rate per 1,000 Live and Still-births.
ILL BIRTHS				
Legitimate	1.	-	1.	
Illegitimate.	-	-	-	
Total.	1.	-	1.	6.6
DEATHS.	135.	70.	65.	Death Rate per 1,000 of population.
				15.3

Deaths from puerperal Causes.

Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under One year of age.:-

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births.

42.7.

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.

44.2.

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.

NIL.

Deaths from Cancer. (All ages).	17.
Deaths from Measles.	0.
Deaths from Whooping Cough.	0.
Deaths from Diarrhoea. (Under 2 years of age).	0.

DEATHS CLASSIFIED BY AGE.

Under 1 year.	5.
1 and under 2.	1.
2 and under 5.	0.
5 and under 15.	2.
15 and under 25.	2.
25 and under 35.	4.
35 and under 45.	12.
45 and under 55.	5.
55 and under 65.	24.
65 and under 75.	34.
75 and upwards.	46.

Total @ 135.

@ This is 1 less than the figure given by the Registrar General.

SECTION. C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply. The Borough, with the exception of a few outlying portions is served by a piped supply, which is in the hands of the Corporation. The supply from Messrs E.H. Bentall & Co. Ltd. for the Parish of Heybridge has now ceased.

Public Cleansing. This service is carried out by the Corporation, and collection is by a 6/7 cubic yards freighter, with a removable metal container for the reception of the contents of night soil pails.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The following inspections and visits have been carried out during the year by the Sanitary Inspector.:-

Housing Inspections.	89.
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops.	128.
Infectious Diseases.	27.
Slaughterhouses.	1245.
Nuisances.	60.
Water Supply.	28.
Rats and Mice Destruction Act.	17.
Inspection of Prepared Food Premises	32.
Common Lodging Houses.	11.
Shops Acts.	40.
Factories Act. 1937.	36.
Visits re Public Health Acts, etc.	29.
Miscellaneous visits and inspections	27.

SECTION. E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK. The Farms, Dairies and Milkshops are regularly inspected to see that the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders are being observed. A high standard of cleanliness was maintained during the year at these premises. Samples of milk are taken for the Methylene Blue Reduction Test, Coliform Tests and Phosphatase Test in the case of Pasteurised milk.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS. The inspection of meat is carried out in accordance with the Memorandum on Meat Inspection issued by the Ministry of Health by a Qualified Inspector. Two centralised slaughterhouses were in use in the Borough controlled by the Ministry of Food.

BAKEHOUSES AND PREPARED FOOD PREMISES. These premises are inspected frequently for cleanliness. Leaflets were issued during the year calling the attention of the occupiers to the danger of the spread of Alimentary Infections; in accordance with Circular 2198 issued by the Ministry of Health on the subject.

SECTION F.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There was a large increase in the number of cases of Notifiable Infectious Diseases notified, due to the inclusion of Measles and Whooping Cough to the list. The following table gives the cases notified, together with the number of deaths.

		<u>Deaths.</u>
Typhoid /Paratyphoid.	1	0.
Diphtheria.	2.	0.
Scarlet Fever	3.	0.
Erysipelas.	3.	0.
Pneumonia.	10.	3.
Measles.	261.	0.
Whooping Cough.	139.	0.
Chicken Pox.	31.	0.
Totals.	450.	3.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Great progress was made during the year in this very important matter, and it was pleasing to note that the number of children under school age who were immunised brought the percentage up 50%. It is most important that the children under 5 years of age are immunised, as the risk of infection to Diphtheria is greatest at this time. 50% of the children up to 5 years of age and 85% of the children from 5 years to 15 have been immunised.

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